# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:76
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004
LAND SALINITY
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the increase in salinity in west Bengal is causing a concern to agriculture;

(b) if so, the area thus rendered useless during the last five years;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government alongwith the time frame fixed for checking the increase in salinity; and

(d) the details of saline land in States and Union Territories having coastal areas?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): No serious concern to agriculture due to salinity in West Bengal has been reported by the Government of West Bengal and the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Canning of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research. The extent of soil salinity in West Bengal is about 0.82 million ha. of land spread in the coastal districts of the State and the salinity of those areas is subject to seasonal fluctuation. In general, the extent of salt affected areas in West Bengal is said to be stable.

(c): The Canning Institute has formulated steps for management of coastal salinity. It includes measures for growing different varieties of rice during the Kharif season and varied types of crops in the dry season. The Institute has developed several salt tolerant rice varieties suitable for salt affected soils.

(d): The details of saline soil in State/UTs having coastal areas have been estimated to be as follows:

| States/Union Territories | Extent of Saline Soils (m.ha.) |
|---|---|
| West Bengal | 0.82 |
| Gujarat | 0.71 |
| Orissa | 0.40 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 0.276 |
| Tamil Nadu | 0.10 |
| Karnataka | 0.086 |
| Maharashtra | 0.063 |
| Kerala | 0.026 |
| Goa | 0.018 |
| Pondicherry | 0.001 |
| Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 0.015 |
| Total | 3.10 |